



MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 24, 2021

TO: Todd Bennett, Manager BOW/DWPC/FOS

FROM: Gregg Sanders, BOW/DWPC/FOS - Collinsville

SUBJECT: City of East St. Louis
June 11, 2021 and June 14, 2021 Collection System Inspections

On June 11, 2021, this inspector received a sewer overflow complaint of a manhole located at the Family Dollar store entrance on 89th Street near the intersection of Highway 157 and State Street. The building is in Belleville, but the sewer system is owned and maintained by East St. Louis. Upon arrival, this inspector met the complainant in the parking lot and observed the sanitary sewer overflow. Photographs were taken, and then contact with the City of East St. Louis was attempted. Messages of the circumstances were left on Interim Superintendent and Secretary's voicemail. Photographs observations are attached to this report.

The sanitary sewer overflow was occurring upon arrival accumulating in the concrete gutter, the store's driveway, and along the frontage road. The sewage drained south along the concrete gutter and into a storm drain. Last winter an overflow occurred at this same location and the sewer line was later unplugged by the use of a jetter. The winter sewer overflow entered the storm drain; however, the storm drain became clogged with debris and sewage reached State Street. The sewage froze and became a driving hazard at the intersection with Highway 157. At that time, the City of Belleville cleared the storm drain and added salt to the roadway to melt it.

On June 11, 2021, while waiting for a return call from the City of East St. Louis, this inspector located downstream sewer manholes and attempted to locate a downstream lift station and upstream manhole and upstream lift station. Only

Collection System Inspection

Page 2/ East St. Louis

downstream sewer manholes could be identified on this day and verified by using a 1982 Hurst Roche sewer drawing Sheet 7. It turned out that there is no downstream lift station near to the location of the overflow; thereby, not contributing to the backup. The downstream manhole on the west side of Highway 157 also contained little flow indicating the problem laid east of Highway 157 and the overflowing manhole.

A phone call was then placed to East St. Louis retired Superintendent, Sam Swanson, and he was asked if he had any insight to what may be causing the problem. He was unsure, but suspected tree roots in the grass easement west of Family Dollar and located between the frontage road and Highway 157 were the cause. A couple trees are present in this area between manholes. This information was provided to Mr. Terrence Stith on June 11, 2021 with another phone call. Mr. Stith commented that the sewer manhole in the grassy easement was accessed before to jet towards the overflowing manhole, and that was what cleared the line last winter.

Mr. Stith suggested using a camera to view the pipe between the two closest manholes accessing the grassy easement and viewing under the road. After speaking with this inspector Mr. Stith, immediately mobilized a jetter and cleared the line late afternoon on June 11, 2021 between the two manholes. He also put a call into Thompson Civil, LLC and arranged a meeting for the following Monday on June 14, 2021 and requested this inspector's presence.

During this meeting, Mr. Stith and Ned Brooks of the City, Mr. Alonzo Thompson, and myself were present. There was no overflow occurring on Monday. The insides of the former overflowing manhole and immediate downstream manhole were observed. The piping construction between the two manholes was of different construction material. The downstream manhole delivery pipe was split PVC, and the piping leaving the upstream overflowing manhole appeared to be that of clay. The PVC pipe entering the manhole was at an elevation of approximately two feet below grade; potentially making the pipe easier to work on than expected.

The result of the June 14, 2021 meeting was that Mr. Thompson was going to gather bids for videoing the lines. Mr. Stith requested that this inspector be present during videoing in the field.

The nearest lift station on the bluff east of Family Dollar was observed on June 14, 2021 accompanied by Mr. Stith and Mr. Brooks. This lift station, referred to as the Fairbrother's Lift Station, is located off of Hill Top Road. It was operating at the time, and the water level in the wet well was very low. The East St. Louis staff was unsure where this lift station flows and believes it to be serving only a few residences. It was estimated by the City to take up to 2 weeks to fill; if it were to be left unattended.

There were two uncovered stormwater manholes discovered while carrying out the above activities on June 11, 2001 by this inspector. The manholes are located north of the store and along the grassy easement next to 89th Street. One was partially uncovered and the other completely uncovered and damaged and making the cover appearing to be unusable for its purpose. These two stormwater manholes were pointed out at the end of the follow-up inspection and meeting on June 14, 2021. Mr. Stith, on June 18, 2021, forwarded photographs showing the first lid installed back in place covering the manhole and the second cover replaced by another by IDOT, who had moved/damaged the original lids while mowing.

SUMMARY

The following apparent violations were noted during my June 11, 2021 Complaint Investigation of the East St. Louis collection system:

Apparent Violations:

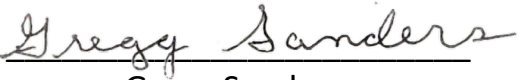
1. Sanitary overflow discharged into a storm sewer to cause or tend to cause water pollution is prohibited; 12 (a) of the Act.
2. Depositing any contaminant upon the land in such a place and manner to create a water pollution hazard is prohibited; 12 (d) of the Act.

3. Cause, threaten, or allow allowing a point source discharge of any contaminant into the waters of the State without an NPDES permit is prohibited; 12 (f) of the Act.
4. Overflows from sanitary sewers are expressly prohibited; Section 306.304 of Subtitle C.
5. No effluent shall contain settleable solids, floating debris, scum, or sludge solids. Color, odor, and turbidity must be reduced to below obvious levels; Section 304.106 of Subtitle C.
6. All treatment works and associated facilities shall be reliable and operated as to minimize violations of applicable standards by appropriate measures; Section 306.102 (a) of Subtitle C.
7. Except as in compliance with the provisions of the Act, Board regulations, and CWA, and the provisions and conditions of an NPDES permit the discharge of any contaminant or pollutant by any person into the waters of the State from a point source shall be unlawful; Section 309.102 of Subtitle C.

Recommendations: Based upon the apparent violations observed, the following recommendations are offered to help ensure compliance:

1. Televiser the sewer line located between the overflowing sanitary manhole and nearest downstream manhole to identify the condition of the collection system and cause(s) contributing to the overflows.
2. Collection system replacement as necessary having appropriate sizing to handle future flows and materials within the system.

3. Smoke test the collection system is also recommended to identify potential locations that might be contributing preventable inflows and infiltration to the system. Any identified preventable locations should be eliminated.


Gregg Sanders

MGS: Collection System Memo ESL June 2021(3 MGS)/East St. Louis

Attachment: Inspection Photographs

cc: Joe Stitely, BOW/FOS
Catherine Siders, BOW/CAS

Mayor's City Address

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